

COMMUNITY

Briefs

Elgin alumni banquet canceled

ELGIN — The Elgin Alumni Association's alumni banquet, planned for June 20, has been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Dues and donations to the scholarship fund can be mailed to the Elgin Alumni Association, P.O. Box 551, Elgin 97827.

Hospital requests cloth masks

LA GRANDE — Grande Ronde Hospital is asking for donations of cloth masks. In continuing the effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the hospital uses commercially produced medical masks and additional personal protective equipment as necessary when caring for ill patients, but in order to keep patients safe, hospital staff use donated cloth masks when treating healthy patients. To learn more about how to make/donate cloth masks, you can find the guidelines at grh.org/covid19.

Union County Senior Center takeout lunch menu

Pickup from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande
For delivery, call 541-963-7532 before 10 a.m.

Age 60+, \$3 suggested donation; all others, \$5

April 27-May 1

Monday: chicken cordon bleu, rice, steamed vegetables, apple Waldorf salad.

Tuesday: fish & chips, baked beans, coleslaw, dessert.

Wednesday: pulled-pork sliders, sweet potato fries, cabbage slaw, pie.

Thursday: taco salad, chips and salsa, flan.

Friday: turkey, bacon and avocado wraps, potato salad, fresh fruit, chips, pie.

Enterprise mayor to step down May 11

By Bill Bradshaw
EO Media Group

ENTERPRISE — Enterprise Mayor Stacey Karvoski will step down from her post, and the city council will appoint one of its members to be mayor pro-tem at its May 11 meeting, effective June 1.



Karvoski

The announcement was made at the April 13 council meeting. Karvoski said she will step down because she is moving outside the city limits and thus would no longer meet the residency requirement to serve as an elected official.

Karvoski joined the city council in January 2009. She was elected mayor in 2016 and took office in January 2017.

Also at the April 13 meeting, the Motel Tax Committee approved all grant requests presented at the March meeting with the exception of the proposal for the Mountain High Broncs and Bulls because that event has been canceled this year.

Other grants, \$2,000 each, were approved for the Courthouse Concert Series, Juniper Jam Music Festival, Wallowa Resources Woodlands & Watershed Festival, Main Street Show and Shine, Hells Canyon Mule Days and Alpenfest.

EO MEDIA group
The most valuable and respected source of local news, advertising and information for our communities.
eomediagroup.com

Virginia L. Widman

Formerly of La Grande • 1929-2020

Virginia Lee Widman, 90, of Salem and formerly of La Grande, died March 12.



When travel and meeting restrictions are lifted, the family plans to have a memorial service at the First Baptist Church in Salem. Call 541-504-2841 if you wish to be notified when a date is set. Arrangements are entrusted to Virgil T. Golden Funeral Service of Salem.

Virginia was born July 18, 1929, in West Linn, to James and Lola Howard. The family lived in West Linn until 1942. They moved to Prineville, and in 1947 Virginia graduated from Crook County High School. She graduated from Linfield College in McMinnville in 1951. Virginia also

received a master's degree from the University of Oregon in 1966.

After graduating from Linfield College, Virginia started a career in teaching. She was a physical education teacher in Baker and La Grande high schools from 1952 until 1976. During her public-school teaching career, she was very involved with the sports teams and rally squads for the young women of these two high schools.

In 1976, Virginia decided to leave the public-school system and taught in a private Christian Academy in Carmichael, California. She lived in the Sacramento area until 2003, when she moved to Salem. During the years prior to her moving to Salem, Virginia took several mission trips to Brazil, Argentina and Albania to teach missionary children residing in those countries. She loved

OBITUARIES

William Hiebert

La Grande • 1942-2020

William Hiebert, 78, of La Grande, died April 10 at a local care facility. At his request there will not be a public service at this time. Arrangements are under the direction of Daniels-Knopp Funeral, Cremation & Life Celebration Center.

William was born Feb. 9, 1942, in White Salmon, Washington, to David Roy and Audrey Irene (Swaim) Hiebert.

He attended the Seventh-day Adventist Church School. He was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and a past president of the Young Republicans.

On July 3, 1979, William married Sandra J. Chandler. They lived in Hawaii, Florida and Costa Rica before moving back to La Grande. William enjoyed traveling and fishing. He



Upcoming local services are pending due to efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

worked in a variety of sales positions before his retirement.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Sandra J. Hiebert of La Grande; children, Brenda and Bill Jr.; stepson, Doyle of Hillsboro; sister, Linda of Salem; and six grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Gail, and one grandchild.

Ghost signs and walldogs: History at home

Over the past year or so my visits with you ceased because I had not been traveling much and felt there was little of note that needed to be shared.

Now that we are all staying at home there is a greater need than

before to stay connected and keep our minds busy and our spirits up.

As many of you are aware, Dale and I are extremely passionate about the preservation of our historic downtown. As part of that passion I began research a number of years ago on some of the buildings and their original owners.

It was amazing how many of the names that emerged were those of either people we have known during our 50-plus years here in La Grande or some of their relatives. Those people I learned were tough and strong and worked together to build community and to keep it going.

Recently I put together a collection of stories about a special part of that community and a need for preservation that I want to share with you over the coming months.

Scattered throughout La Grande, primarily in

the historic district, there are hidden scattered gems of yesterday looking down on the unaware passersby ready to share some of the rich history of La Grande's

early occupants. These painted advertisements, also known as

"ghost signs," are for products and services important to the local citizenry during a specific era. Like the historic old buildings on which they are found they give us a small glimpse of what life was like in the early part of the 20th century.

Around the end of the 19th century a new type of advertising swept across the country — including large cities as well as the smaller rural towns. It was the thing to do and La Grande was not to be left out. There were no rules or regulations at that time regarding signage. For those who owned their own building it was certainly something to consider.

La Grande has two types of ghost signs — those for nationally known products and those for local businesses. So who paid for these signs? For the locally owned businesses, the advertisement was generally paid for by the owner of the business. For larger companies that were reaching out

"Scattered throughout La Grande, primarily in the historic district, there are hidden scattered gems of yesterday looking down on the unaware passersby ready to share some of the rich history of La Grande's early occupants."

to all areas to make their products known, there was what were called "privilege signs."

Sometimes money changed hands for these, though very rarely and not very much. Mostly the building owner was offered something such as having the business name somewhere included in the sign or a service of having the building roof inspected (handy for the taller buildings), or some object or product.

The men who painted these signs were not considered artists or even the best sign-painters but they were extremely talented and daring as they engaged in a very dangerous trade. In the larger cities there were local painters while in the rural areas there were traveling sign painters who went from small town to small town working farms (barns and silos) along the way. Wherever they were, they were referred to as "walldogs." This was for two reasons. They worked like dogs while working up and down on tall buildings and they were tethered/leashed to the wall.

Although many were

skilled both in their artistic work and climbing abilities, they were often poorly paid.

If that was not bad enough, their exposure to the toxic combinations of ingredients, including lead, creating the paints they used made their job even more dangerous health wise. However, it was because of the adhesive durability of these paints that we are still able to see and appreciate the efforts of their work today.

I previously closed my

articles with "Enjoy!" I still feel that it is important to try to find something each day to bring joy into our own life as well as those around us. So until next time keep tough, strong and healthy — and Enjoy!

About the Author
Ginny Mammen has lived in La Grande for more than 50 years and enjoys sharing her interest in the history of people, places and buildings.

H. Evelyn (Witham) Ryan

August 27, 1945 - April 15, 2020

Evelyn was born in Baker to Harvey and Hertha Witham and was a fifth generation Bakerite. She graduated from Baker High School in 1963 and attended Eastern Oregon College. In 1964 she married Robert Ryan and they had three children.

For many years they lived in Great Falls, Montana and in 2000 moved to Scranton to be near their children. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother and nothing made her happier than to have her family around her dining room table. She was also a devoted church member and help to build many churches in communities.

She is survived by her husband Bob of Allentown PA and three children Mike Ryan, Mollie Peiren both of Wallkill, NY and Mitch Ryan of Factoryville, NJ and two grandchildren Brady and Jake. Three sisters Jeanne Schumacher of Baker City, Reba Sharp of Beaverton OR and Anna Baum of LaGrande OR.

She was preceded in death by her parents Harvey and Hertha and a much loved grandmother, Maudie who always referred to her as "sissy".

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

WEDNESDAY

9:19 a.m. — A caller asked to speak to a La Grande police officer about vandalism on the 900 block of O Avenue.

10:56 a.m. — La Grande police received a report of vandalism on the 300 block of Fourth Street.

11:35 a.m. — La Grande police cited a 48-year-old woman for second-degree custodial interference, a misdemeanor.

11:41 a.m. — La Grande police took a report of vandal-

ism on the 1600 block of First Street.

4:01 p.m. — The Union County Sheriff's Office responded to the 1000 block of Main Street, Union, on a report of a disturbance. Deputies separated the parties and explained options.

10:46 p.m. — An Elgin caller reported an assault on the 900 block of Alder Street. A Union County sheriff's deputy responded and took a report.

11:19 p.m. — The Union

County Sheriff's Office responded to the 60100 block of Morgan Lake Road on a report of a burglary. Deputies arrested Julien Daniel Lopez, 21, of La Grande, for first-degree burglary and first-degree theft and on a warrant.

Greta Jane Guilinger

December 20, 1943 - April 18, 2020

Greta Jane Guilinger, 76, of Island City, passed away on Saturday, April 18, 2020 at her residence for 7 years, La Grande Post Acute Rehabilitation.

Greta was born on December 20, 1943 in San Francisco, California to Waldo and Jane (Smith) Hamann. She graduated from Orland High School. She was married to Dewayne Peterson for 20 years and had two daughters. They later divorced. She then married Glen Guilinger.

Greta was a loving mother and wife. She enjoyed riding horses, dogs, crafting and bargain hunting. She was a member of the Rainbows for Girls.

Greta is survived by her daughters, Lisa Lenker (Dan) of Island City, OR and Tammy Peterson of Corning, CA; 5 grandchildren, Melissa Costello, Brandi Hewitt, Monica White, Sara Hill and Clayton Lenker and 8 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Glen; parents, Waldo and Jane; brother, Jon Hamann and grandson, Randy Dewayne Duby.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Blue Mountain Humane Association, 3212 Hwy 30, La Grande, OR 97850.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.loveland-funeralchapel.com.



We are in this together, and no matter the situation we will be here for you.

We have received a dramatic increase in calls from families wanting to pre-arrange their funeral or final wishes, but who are uncertain how to proceed with the social distancing restrictions.

At Loveland Funeral Chapel we have designed and implemented a new program so we can help everyone during these uncertain times. Your safety and privacy are important to us. If you are uncomfortable meeting with us in person at this time, we understand. **You can prearrange all of your wishes and plans in the security of your own home, using the mail, phone, as well as electronic media.** If you would like more information please call us and we will help you.



1508 4th St., La Grande
541.963.5022
www.lovelandfuneralchapel.com